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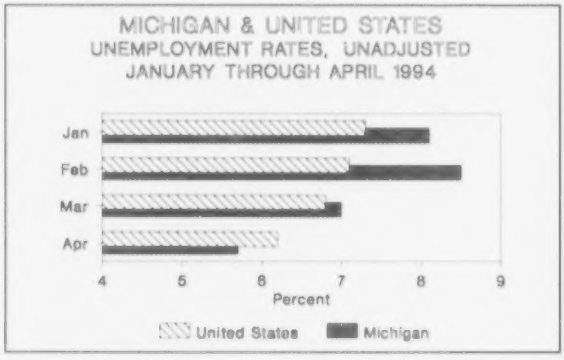
MICHIGAN'S LABOR MARKET NEWS

Volume 50 Number 4 *June 1994*

MICHIGAN'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DOWN TO 5.7 PERCENT

The unemployment rate in Michigan settled back by 1.3 percentage points, as the jobless rate dropped from 7.0 percent in March to 5.7 percent in April (unadjusted). This was the lowest level since October 1978, when the state's jobless rate was 5.5 percent. April was also the first month this year in which Michigan's unemployment rate has fallen below the nation's rate. The U.S. jobless rate also declined in April and settled at 6.2 percent, down from 6.8 percent in March.

During April, the number of unemployed individuals in Michigan dropped by 59,000 to 271,000, while employment advanced by 87,000 to total 4,463,000. The labor force also increased during the month reaching 4,706,000, a gain of 28,000 over March. The drop in Michigan's joblessness was primarily the result of a seasonal increase in the state's economic activity, traditionally experienced with the arrival of spring.



INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT INCREASES AGAIN IN APRIL

Michigan's wage and salary employment advanced during the month, as industry jobs climbed to 4,047,900 in April. Employment opportunities expanded by 29,800 as gains were centered in both the service producing and goods producing sectors. Service producing employment added 17,200 jobs, mainly due to seasonal gains in retail trade and services, following the arrival of spring. Eating and drinking places and personnel supply services showed the greatest gains. Goods producing jobs advanced by 12,700, mainly as a result of seasonal increases in the construction industry.

HOURS AND EARNINGS
MICHIGAN

	Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	1994		1994	
	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.
Manufacturing	16.25	16.08	44.7	44.7
Durables	17.30	17.11	45.5	45.4
Motor Vehicles	21.36	21.00	47.1	46.5
Nondurables	12.73	12.70	41.9	42.5

In April, the average workweek in the state's manufacturing industries remained unchanged from March, at 44.7 hours. However, this represents an increase of 2.4 hours over the hourly averages recorded in April 1993. During the month, average hourly earnings advanced by 17 cents to $16.25. As a result, average weekly earnings in manufacturing reached $726.37, a gain of $7.59 over March's total.

Jobless Estimates Are Now On MESC's Bulletin Board

One of the most commonly used indicators of an area's economic well being, is now readily available to anyone with a computer and a modem. The state's, as well as local areas unemployment data has been added to Michigan Employment Security Commission's (MESC's) storehouse of information, and can be accessed through the LMI On-Line Bulletin Board system.

MESC's LMI On-Line system now offers current labor force estimates for Michigan and nearly 1,700 communities throughout the state. The estimates include the size of the work force, the number employed and the number and percentage of the unemployed. These labor force estimates are contained in a program called Micro Computer Labor Force Estimates (**MCLAFS**), and can be accessed from the main menu of the Bulletin Board. **MCLAFS** is an interactive program which allows the users to customize their information request to meet their individual needs. The user can ask for labor force estimates for specific communities and time periods, ranging from current data back to 1984.

Making **MCLAFS** part of the LMI On-Line system is part of an on-going effort to make Michigan's labor market information more accessible to the public in new and more flexible ways. **MCLAFS** joins other employment and statistical data available to the public through LMI On-Line. The system also offers information about job opportunities available through MESC and the federal government, jobseeking tips, occupational data, Consumer Price Index, legislative updates and more.

To access the system, a caller needs a personal computer, modem and communication software. The LMI On-Line Phone number is (313) 876-6696. There is no fee for using the LMI On-Line Bulletin Board, except for phone charges.

For More Information Contact:

Information and Reports Section
Michigan Employment Security Commission
7310 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48202
(313) 876-5427

	Michigan (Data in Thousands)		
	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993
Place of Residence			
Labor Force	4,734	4,706	4,587
Employment	4,463	4,376	4,274
Unemployment	271	330	313
Rate (Percent)	5.7	7.0	6.8
Place of Work			
Total Employment	4,048	4,018	3,946
Goods Producing	1,064	1,051	1,023
Const. & Mining	134	125	127
Manufacturing	930	926	895
Durable Goods	694	690	665
Primary Metals	37	37	36
Fabricated Metals	120	120	116
Trans. Equip.	292	292	279
Nondurable Goods	236	235	230
Food & Kindred	41	41	42
Other Nondurable	195	194	188
Service Producing	2,985	2,967	2,923
Tran. Comm. Util.	152	155	155
Wholesale Trade	198	197	196
Retail Trade	741	730	721
General Merch.	118	116	117
Eating & Drinking	265	259	257
Fin. Ins. Real Est.	194	192	191
Finance	121	120	119
Services	1,047	1,030	1,005
Business Services	216	210	198
Health Services	335	334	328
Other Services	496	486	479
Government	653	663	655
Federal	56	55	56
State	172	171	173
Local	426	437	426
Labor Disputes	0.0	0.2	0.1

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Ann Arbor			Benton Harbor			Detroit (Data in Thousands)		
	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	282,100	279,000	275,200	82,600	82,000	80,700	2,123	2,114	2,064
Employment	272,600	267,000	263,500	77,800	76,200	75,000	2,007	1,975	1,923
Unemployment	9,500	12,000	11,700	4,800	5,900	5,700	116	138	141
Rate (Percent)	3.4	4.3	4.2	5.8	7.2	7.1	5.4	6.5	6.8
Place of Work									
Total Employment	250,000	247,700	247,100	67,800	67,300	66,800	1,898	1,895	1,858
Construction & Mining	6,200	5,800	5,800	1,700	1,600	1,700	56	52	51
Manufacturing	54,000	53,500	53,800	20,300	20,300	19,900	428	428	409
Tran., Comm. & Utilities	5,400	5,300	5,600	2,800	2,800	2,700	83	84	84
Wholesale Trade	7,500	7,400	7,400	2,300	2,200	2,200	112	111	112
Retail Trade	39,700	39,500	39,000	12,100	11,900	11,900	336	332	331
Fin., Ins. & Real Estate	9,400	9,300	9,100	2,600	2,600	2,500	108	107	106
Services	56,200	55,800	55,000	16,900	16,500	16,500	541	542	531
Government	71,500	71,200	71,500	9,100	9,400	9,400	235	239	234
Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0

	Kalamazoo - Battle Creek			Lansing			Saginaw - Bay - Midland		
	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	227,700	225,300	221,400	237,800	236,100	230,500	194,500	192,100	187,400
Employment	216,600	211,800	209,700	228,300	224,300	219,600	182,000	177,200	174,500
Unemployment	11,100	13,500	11,700	9,400	11,800	10,900	12,500	14,900	13,000
Rate (Percent)	4.9	6.0	5.3	4.0	5.0	4.7	6.4	7.8	6.9
Place of Work									
Total Employment	198,100	196,300	196,000	217,500	216,600	213,900	164,900	162,800	161,800
Construction & Mining	6,200	5,700	6,100	5,800	5,600	5,600	6,600	5,900	6,700
Manufacturing	49,400	49,000	49,400	29,500	29,100	27,900	40,600	40,400	40,000
Tran., Comm. & Utilities	6,200	6,200	6,100	6,300	6,200	6,200	6,400	6,400	6,500
Wholesale Trade	6,800	6,700	6,700	8,000	7,900	7,800	6,300	6,200	6,100
Retail Trade	36,300	35,700	35,300	39,200	39,000	38,400	34,400	33,400	34,200
Fin., Ins. & Real Estate	10,400	10,400	10,300	12,200	12,200	12,300	6,200	6,200	6,100
Services	47,200	46,700	46,300	48,600	48,100	48,000	41,400	41,100	39,700
Government	35,600	36,000	35,700	67,900	68,600	67,600	23,100	23,100	22,500
Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Flint			Grand Rapids - Muskegon			Jackson		
	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	198,300	197,200	191,800	521,100	516,400	503,100	73,900	73,700	70,800
Employment	183,500	179,500	174,700	498,300	487,700	475,000	69,400	68,200	65,500
Unemployment	14,800	17,700	17,100	22,800	28,700	28,100	4,500	5,500	5,300
Rate (Percent)	7.5	9.0	8.9	4.4	5.6	5.6	6.1	7.5	7.5
Place of Work									
Total Employment	166,500	165,200	162,600	473,500	469,600	459,900	55,800	55,700	54,100
Construction & Mining	4,400	3,900	4,500	19,500	17,600	18,300	1,600	1,600	1,500
Manufacturing	46,800	46,300	44,900	137,800	137,400	132,800	12,800	12,700	12,000
Tran., Comm. & Utilities	4,200	4,300	4,600	16,700	16,600	16,400	3,600	3,600	3,500
Wholesale Trade	6,800	6,800	7,000	29,500	29,400	29,000	2,200	2,200	2,100
Retail Trade	32,000	31,400	31,800	83,600	82,100	83,100	11,100	11,100	10,800
Fin., Ins. & Real Estate	6,300	6,200	6,100	19,200	19,100	18,900	1,800	1,900	1,800
Services	41,400	41,600	39,200	115,600	114,200	109,800	12,500	12,400	12,000
Government	24,600	24,800	24,400	51,700	53,300	51,500	10,200	10,400	10,200
Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Upper Peninsula			Grand Traverse LMA			Alcona - Iosco LMA		
	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993	Apr 1994	Mar 1994	Apr 1993
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	150,200	149,500	142,700	63,700	63,700	60,200	14,900	14,700	14,500
Employment	135,600	132,700	128,400	59,500	58,200	55,400	13,200	12,700	12,700
Unemployment	14,600	16,900	14,300	4,200	5,400	4,800	1,700	2,100	1,800
Rate (Percent)	9.7	11.3	10.0	6.6	8.5	7.9	11.4	14.0	12.4
Place of Work									
Total Employment	119,200	118,400	115,600	51,200	50,800	48,600	9,700	9,400	9,600
Construction & Mining	7,100	6,500	7,200	4,400	4,300	4,300	400	400	400
Manufacturing	15,000	15,100	14,700	7,000	7,000	6,800	2,000	2,000	2,000
Tran., Comm. & Utilities	5,300	5,200	5,300	1,800	1,800	1,800	600	500	400
Wholesale Trade	3,200	3,200	3,200	1,900	1,900	1,800	100	100	100
Retail Trade	24,500	24,000	23,300	11,600	11,300	11,000	2,100	1,900	2,000
Fin., Ins. & Real Estate	4,300	4,200	4,200	2,100	2,100	2,000	300	300	400
Services	24,600	25,000	23,100	15,000	14,900	13,900	1,800	1,700	1,800
Government	35,300	35,200	34,600	7,400	7,600	7,000	2,400	2,500	2,700
Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS

APRIL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES DOWN IN MICHIGAN'S MAJOR AREAS

Unemployment rates in all ten of Michigan's major labor market areas dropped by nearly a percentage point or more during the month of April. The arrival of spring prompted many employers in retail trade and services to expand staff with anticipation of the arrival of the tourism and recreational season. All ten major labor markets reported employment increases in April, along with declines in the levels of unemployment and small gains in the labor force.

Among Michigan's major labor market areas, Ann Arbor had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.4 percent, followed by Lansing and Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland areas with 4.0 and 4.4 percent, respectively. The Upper Peninsula had the largest unemployment decline in April, as its jobless rate fell 1.6 points to 9.7 percent from 11.3 percent in March. The decline still left the 15-county area with the highest unemployment rate among Michigan's major labor markets. The rate decline in the Upper Peninsula is attributed to seasonal job gains in construction and retail trade industries.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT RISES AGAIN IN ALL AREAS

April wage and salary employment continued to exhibit the familiar patterns observed in Michigan's economy with the arrival of spring, as nonfarm payroll employment advanced in all the major areas. In most cases the gains were reflected in both the goods producing and service producing sectors of the economy. In the goods producing industries, employment advanced mainly in the construction industry, following the improvement of the weather. Gains in the service producing industries were concentrated primarily in retail trade (eating and drinking places) and services (business services). Among the major areas, Saginaw-Bay-Midland reported the largest percentage increase at 1.3 percent, followed by Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo both with gains of 0.9 percent.

During April, the average hourly earnings in the manufacturing industries increased in six out of the ten major metropolitan statistical areas in Michigan. The gains were due mostly to advances in the durable goods industries. The average workweek moved up in four of the major metropolitan areas over the month, and average weekly earnings rose in six areas. The largest gains were reflected in Lansing and Ann Arbor with increases of $95.65 and $18.52, respectively.

MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS
Major Labor Market Areas
March and April 1994

Area	Average Weekly Hours		Average Weekly Earnings		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.
Ann Arbor	45.6	45.4	765.17	748.65	16.78	16.49
Benton Harbor	42.6	43.1	488.62	498.67	11.47	11.57
Detroit	46.6	46.7	808.04	803.24	17.34	17.20
Flint	48.2	47.8	1053.65	1043.00	21.86	21.82
Grand Rapids	42.7	42.9	560.65	559.42	13.13	13.04
Jackson	43.3	43.9	496.22	498.26	11.46	11.35
Kalamazoo	44.7	45.9	669.61	695.38	14.98	15.15
Lansing	45.6	43.8	823.08	727.52	18.06	16.61
Saginaw	45.6	44.8	831.29	817.15	18.23	18.24
Upper Peninsula	40.4	41.2	452.88	462.26	11.21	11.22

ANNUAL INDEXES OF MANUFACTURING PRODUCTIVITY (1982 = 100)

ITEM AND COUNTRY	1982	1985	1987	1989	1990	1991	1992
Output Per Hour							
United States	100.0	106.8	116.7	120.0	122.2	124.5	129.9
Canada	100.0	119.8	119.0	119.0	120.6	121.4	126.4
Japan	100.0	112.0	119.5	135.2	144.5	150.7	143.2
France	100.0	108.2	112.1	125.6	127.2	127.0	130.7
Germany	100.0	113.4	112.3	120.2	125.5	129.2	129.8
Italy	100.0	122.3	127.7	135.1	141.1	145.8	151.2
United Kingdom	100.0	117.4	128.8	142.2	146.3	151.9	159.4
Compensation Per Hour							
United States	100.0	111.2	118.4	127.9	134.7	141.9	148.2
Canada	100.0	116.8	125.0	137.4	146.9	155.8	162.2
Japan	100.0	110.1	118.6	128.2	138.3	146.3	153.0
France	100.0	129.7	140.2	153.3	159.3	166.1	171.7
Germany	100.0	116.3	126.9	138.2	148.0	157.8	167.3
Italy	100.0	150.9	166.0	191.1	213.3	236.1	252.2
United Kingdom	100.0	127.5	148.1	178.5	187.5	208.5	226.0

Output Per Hour (Productivity Measures): The productivity measures relate real physical output to real input. These measures include items such as output per unit of labor input (labor productivity) or output per unit of capital input (capital productivity), as well as measures of multifactor productivity such as output per unit of combined labor and capital inputs. The measures cover nonfarm business, manufacturing, and nonfinancial corporate sectors.

Compensation Per Hour: Compensation per hour is the wages and salaries of employees plus employers' contributions for social insurance and private benefit plans, and the wages, salaries and supplementary payments for the self-employed - divided by hours of work.

Source: Monthly Labor Review, March 1994; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT
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